implementation. It was resolved in the conference to achieve break even in distribution in two years time and achieve positive returns thereafter. It was also resolved that State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) would be made functional and tariff petition filed and subsidy may be given only to the extent of State Government's capacity to pay the subsidies explicitly through budget. The Government of India has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with twenty-one States. The MOUs are a joint Commitment of the Centre and the States to undertake reforms in a time-bound manner. The State Governments commitment in these MOUs include setting up of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, 100% metering of 11 KV feeders and all consumers, energy audit, reduction of technical and commercial losses achievements of commercial viability in distribution etc. Government of India has committed its support through additional allocating of power from Central Generating Stations and financial assistance for strengthening of subtransmission and distribution as well as for renovation and modernization of thermal and hydel power plants. 12 State Electricity Regulatory Commission have passed tariff orders which reflect a trend towards tariff rationalisation. It is expected that with the reform and restructuring of power sector, the confidence of investors in power sector will improve.

Study of ARRPEEC to boost the Hydro-power Generation

4460. SHRI AIMADDUDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study of the Asian Regional Research Programme in Energy, Environment and Climate (ARRPEEC) has stressed the need for a major boost to the hydro-power generation in the country.

(b) If so, whether any action plan has been adopted to promote this strategy for conservation of hydro-carbons and fossil fuels and controlling Green House (GHCs) for implementation during the Tenth Five Year Plan and thereafter; and

(c) the details of such an action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Asian

Regional Research Programme in Energy, Environment and Climate (ARRPEEC) have suggested that hydro power generation is an attractive option to mitigate Green House Gases emission from the power sector.

The Government of India is already giving boost to non-fossil fuel generation. The likely capacity addition through Hydro Power generation in the 10th Five Year Plan and 11th Five Year Plan is 17,311 MW and 19,262 MW respectively. In order to reduce green house gases emission in the Power Sector, the Government is encouraging adoption of clean coal technologies like super critical boilers, IGCC, use of washed coal, etc.; promoting efficient use of energy in industrial, commercial, agricultural & domestic sectors; and giving thrust to efficiency improvement in the thermal power plants through renovation & modernization and losses reduction in transmission and distribution sectors. The Government is also promoting and developing renewal energy sources. These efforts will eventually reduce green house gases emission and also result in conservation of fossil fuel.

Restoring Fiscal Health of SEB

4461. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KAHN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a strategy for relieving the heavy liabilities of the State Electricity Boards and help them to restored fiscal health;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to implement the same; and

(c) the extent and details of support given to Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

The Government recently approved a scheme for one-time settlement of the outstanding dues of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) by scrutinising the outstanding dues as on 30.09.2001 through issue of tax-free bonds by the respective state government through Reserve